(b) if so, whether Government allocate the increased 2 MCMD gas from the Tapti Fields to the Pipavav gas based power project in Gujarat in the near future; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and how the commitment was made by the Central Government to the Gujarat Government?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) Natural gas availability from the South Tapti field has gone up from the peak production rate of 4.2 million standard cubic meters per day (MMSCMD) envisaged in the Production Sharing Contract to the present level of around 5.5 MMSCMD.

(b) and (c) It was decided in 1989 to allocate gas from the yet to be developed Mid and South Tapti fields to a power project to be put up at Pipavav and take gas from Gandhar fields to the Hazira-Bijaipur-Jagdishpur (HBJ) pipeline system. However, subsequently keeping in view the fact that the investment decisions to develop Mid and South Tapti fields were yet to be taken, it was agreed to allocate the Gandhar gas for two gas based power projects of 600 MW each in Gandhar area and to take the gas from Mid and South Tapti fields to meet the existing commitments along the HBJ pipeline system. The Government of Gujarat had been informed of the position.

National Calamity of Rarest Severity

*179. SHRI E. BALANANDAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn to the recommendations of the Tenth Finance Commission that if one-third of the population of a State is affected by natural calamity this can be termed as a disaster "a National calamity of rarest severity";

(b) whether Government are aware that the super-cyclone that rammed Orissa, 12 districts of the State have been severely affected; and

(c) if so, what stands in the way for Government to declare the disaster in Orissa a "National calamity of rarest severity"?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH

KUMAR): (a) In its recommendations, the Tenth Finance Commission (TFC) has not defined a calamity of rare severity but has stated that a calamity of rare severity would necessarily have to be adjudged on a case-to-case basis taking into account, inter-alia, the intensity and magnitude of the calamity, level of relief assistance needed, the capacity of the State to tackle the problem, the alternatives and flexibility available within the plans to provide succour and relief, etc. There is no provision in the recommendations of TFC that if one-third of the population of a State is affected by natural calamity, the disaster can be termed as "a National calamity of rarest severity". However, the TFC has mentioned that once a calamity is deemed to be of rare severity it ought to be dealt with as a national calamity requiring assistance and support beyond what is envisaged in the Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) scheme.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Since there is no provision for declaring any calamity as a "National calamity of rarest severity", the question of declaring the disaster in Orissa as such does not arise. However, it is being dealt with as a national calamity.

Zero per cent corruption in the Administration

†*180. SHRI RAGHAVJI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as per his announcement his Government would work to achieve the target of zero per cent corruption in the administration; and

(b) if so, the steps taken/to be taken by Government to achieve this target?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING AND DEPARTMENT OF PENSION AND PENSIONERS' WELFARE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) In his address to the nation on 16.10.1999 the Prime Minister had declared that principle

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.